

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*Sub A*

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1. A multi-beam scanning apparatus comprising:  
a multi-beam semiconductor laser;  
a laser holder holding said multi-beam  
semiconductor laser;

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a multi-beam light source unit having said  
multi-beam semiconductor laser and said laser holder;  
scanning imaging means for scanning a plurality of  
laser beams emitted by said multi-beam semiconductor  
laser to form an image on a surface to be scanned; and  
a housing supporting said scanning imaging means  
and said multi-beam light source unit,

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wherein said multi-beam semiconductor laser is  
fixed to said laser holder with inclination at or near  
a predetermined rotational angle for adjusting a beam  
interval between the plurality of laser beams.

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2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a laser array  
fixed with inclination with respect to a reference  
surface of said laser holder.

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3. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a plurality of  
aligned emission points.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a plurality of two-dimensionally arrayed emission points.

5           5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said laser holder is integrated with a lens barrel holding a collimator lens.

*Sub A2*  
10           6. A multi-beam light source unit comprising:  
            a multi-beam semiconductor laser for emitting a plurality of laser beams;  
            a laser holder holding said multi-beam semiconductor laser; and  
            a multi-beam light source unit having said multi-beam semiconductor laser and said laser holder,  
15           wherein said multi-beam semiconductor laser is fixed to said laser holder with inclination at or near a predetermined rotational angle for adjusting a beam interval between the plurality of laser beams.

20           7. A unit according to claim 6, wherein said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a laser array fixed with inclination with respect to a reference surface of said laser holder.

25           8. A unit according to claim 6, wherein said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a plurality of aligned emission points.

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straight lines connecting all the plurality of fixing portions.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
5 said fixing means has at least three fixing portions.

13. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
said fixing means has a fixing portion fastened by a  
screw.

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14. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
said fixing means has a fixing portion adhered with an  
adhesive.

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15. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a plurality of  
aligned emission points.

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16. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a plurality of  
two-dimensionally arrayed emission points.

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17. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein  
said laser holder comprises an adjustment member for  
adjusting a relative position of said multi-beam  
semiconductor laser.

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18. An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said laser holder is integrated with a lens barrel holding a collimator lens.

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19. A multi-beam light source unit comprising:  
a multi-beam semiconductor laser for emitting a plurality of laser beams;  
a laser holder holding said multi-beam semiconductor laser;  
10 a multi-beam light source unit having said multi-beam semiconductor laser and said laser holder;  
a housing supporting said multi-beam light source unit; and  
fixing means for fixing said multi-beam light  
15 source unit to said housing, said fixing means having a plurality of fixing portions,  
wherein the center of rotation of said multi-beam light source unit and a plurality of emission points of said multi-beam semiconductor laser are located on a  
20 straight line connecting at least two of the plurality of fixing portions or a planar region defined by straight lines connecting all the plurality of fixing portions.

25 20. A unit according to claim 19, wherein said fixing means has at least three fixing portions.

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21. A unit according to claim 19, wherein said fixing means has a fixing portion fastened by a screw.

22. A unit according to claim 19, wherein said fixing means has a fixing portion adhered with an adhesive.

23. A unit according to claim 19, wherein said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a plurality of aligned emission points.

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